

Rauch Supports SB896 re DEEP Removal of Trees

I am writing in support of SB896 with suggestions for changes. Trees play a vital role in our environment. They provide carbon capture, clean our air and water, transpire water into the atmosphere as well as providing habitat, relief from heat and weather as well as providing scenery. Connecticut is one of the most densely populated states and every opportunity to grow trees is important. DEEP should lead the way in protecting our native trees and other valuable native vegetation.

I feel the legislation should be adjusted to provide more time for notices to be discovered by the public and for a more responsive method of getting public input than we have experienced in the past. I suggest the language be adjusted to accommodate situations where tree removal is highly appropriate as in establishing habitat like new growth or removing invasive or inappropriate species. I think that language should be revised so that non-native or poorly suited species are not planted.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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